UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/674,577	09/29/2003	Sathyanarayana Nagendra Puttu	50325-0797	5403

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EXAMINER
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ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2194	

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

	Application No.	Applicant(s)
Office Action Summary	10/674,577	PUTTU ET AL.
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Charles E. Anya	2194	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE <u>3</u> MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on <u>*30 October 2007*</u>.

2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**.   2b) ☒ This action is non-final.

3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) ☒ Claim(s) *16-22,38-44,60-66 and 82-88* is/are pending in the application.

    4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6) ☒ Claim(s) *16-22,38-44,60-66 and 82-88* is/are rejected.

7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.

    Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

    Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

    a) ☐ All   b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:

      1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

      2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

      3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

    * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.

4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.

5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application

6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

1.   Claims 16-22,38-44,60-66 and 82-88 are pending in this application.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

> The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

2.   Claims 16,38,60, and 82 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

The following terms lack antecedent basis:

i.   "the request" on lines 6,10 and 13 of claims 16,38 and 60 and lines 10,14 and 17of claim 82.

For the purpose of this office action the Examiner would change "the request" to "the SNMP GET request".

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

> A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –
>
> (e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

3. **Claims 16,19,38,41,60,63,82 and 85 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Pat. No. 7,010,782 B2 to Narayan et al.**

4. As to claim 16, Narayan teaches a method for verifying information on a managed device, comprising: receiving a SNMP GET request identifying an SNMP MIB object and also containing one or more non-null values comprising proposals for a correct value of the SNMP MIB object ("...SNMP commands the reads (get)...values..." Col. 3 Ln. 61 – 67, Col. 8 Ln. 46 – 53); wherein the SNMP GET request requests a determination as to whether any of the one or more values match the correct value stored in the SNMP MIB object of the managed device, determining whether any of the one or more values match the correct value stored in the SNMP MIB object ("...Errors...under test 10..." Col. 3 Ln. 61 – 67, Test Manger 30 Col. 4 L. 1 – 9, Col. 5 Ln. 34 – 36, "...compared..." Col. 8 Ln. 46 – 53); and completing execution of the SNMP GET request by: transmitting a notification message indicating whether any of the one or more values match the correct value of the SNMP MIB object and without providing the correct value in response to the SNMP GET request (Email Notifier 48 Col. 5 Ln. 36 – 41, "...reporting..." Col. 9 Ln. 17 – 19).

5. As to claim 19, Narayan teaches the method of Claim 16, wherein the SNMP MIB object stores an attribute for a user credential for a protocol other than SNMP ("...username and password..." Col. 4 Ln. 46 – 49).

6.   As to claims 38,60 and 82, see the rejection of claim 16 above.

7.   As to claims 41,63 and 85, see the rejection of claim 19 above.

      :

8.   The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that

form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

> A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –
>
> (b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

9.   **Claims 16,18,21,22,38,40,43,44,60,62,65,66,82,84,87 and 88 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Pat. No. 5,737,518 Grover et al.**

10.   As to claim 16, Grover teaches a method for verifying information on a managed

device, comprising: receiving a SNMP GET request identifying an SNMP MIB object

and also containing one or more non-null values comprising proposals for a correct

value of the SNMP MIB object ("...an object query request..." Col. 3 Ln. 21 – 35,

"...query..." Col. 6 Ln. 30 – 34, "...query command..." Col. 7 Ln. 57 – 63, "...object

query requests..." Col. 11 Ln. 56 – 60); wherein the SNMP GET request requests a

determination as to whether any of the one or more values match the correct value

stored in the SNMP MIB object of the managed device, determining whether any of the

one or more values match the correct value stored in the SNMP MIB object

("...examining..." Col. 1 Ln. 31 – 44, "...test signal..." Col. 3 Ln. 21 – 35, Col. 3 Ln. 48 –

55, Col. 6 Ln. 19 – 25); and completing execution of the SNMP GET request by:

transmitting a notification message indicating whether any of the one or more values

match the correct value of the SNMP MIB object ("...message indicating an error..."

Col. 1 Ln. 41 – 44, "...failure is reported..." Col. 3 Ln. 8 – 11, "...an error is returned..."

Col. 6 Ln. 39 – 45) and without providing the correct value in response to the SNMP

GET request ("...message indicating an error..." Col. 1 Ln. 41 – 44, "...failure is

reported..." Col. 3 Ln. 8 – 11, "...an error is returned..." Col. 6 Ln. 39 – 45).

11.   As to claim 18, Grover teaches the method of Claim 16, wherein a specification

for the SNMP MIB object is not generally available ("...valid value..." Col. 6 Ln. 39 – 45,

"...attribute read-write..." Col. 8 Ln. 16 – 21).

12.   As to claim 21, Grover teaches the method of Claim 16, wherein the determining

step results in determining that none of the one or more values match the correct value

of the SNMP MIB object ("...examining..." Col. 1 Ln. 31 – 44, "...test signal..." Col. 3 Ln.

21 – 35, Col. 3 Ln. 48 – 55, Col. 6 Ln. 19 – 25), and wherein the transmitting step

comprises transmitting a notification message that includes an error message that

describes an encountered problem in determining whether the one or more values

match the correct value of the SNMP MIB object ("...message indicating an error..."

Col. 1 Ln. 41 – 44, "...failure is reported..." Col. 3 Ln. 8 – 11, "...an error is returned..."

Col. 6 Ln. 39 – 45).

13.   As to claim 22, Grover teaches the method as recited in Claim 16, wherein the

transmittal step comprises the step of storing, in a specified MIB object of the managed

device, a notification value indicating whether any of the one or more values match the

correct value of the SNMP MIB object ("...report...stored in a file..." Col. 8 Ln. 1 – 9).

14.   As to claims 38,60 and 82, see the rejection of claim 16 above.

15.   As to claims 40,62 and 84, see the rejection of claim 18 above.

16.   As to claims 43,65 and 87, see the rejection of claim 21 above.

17.   As to claims 44,66 and 88, see the rejection of claim 22 above.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

18.   The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all

obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed
> or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the
> subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject
> matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made
> to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains.

Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

19.   **Claim 17 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Pat. No. 5,737,518 Grover et al. in view of U.S. Pat. No. 6,697,970 B1 to Chisholm.**

20.   As to claim 17, Grover is silent with reference to the method of Claim 16, wherein the notification message identifies, using an index position and not the correct value, which one of the one or more values match the correct value stored in the SNMP MIB object.

Chisholm teaches the method of Claim 16, wherein the notification message identifies, using an index position and not the correct value, which one of the one or more values match the correct value stored in the SNMP MIB object (figure 5A Col. 6 Ln. 1 – 8).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the system of Grover with the teaching of Chisholm because the teaching of Chisholm would improve the system of Grover by providing data structure used for information retrieval that enables rapid identification of information and thus improves performance during information lookup.

21.   **Claims 20,42,64, and 86 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Pat. No. 5,737,518 Grover et al. in view of WhitePaper: IronShield Best Practices Hardening Foundry Routers & Switches to Kwan.**

22.   As to claim 20, Grover is silent with reference to the method of Claim 16, wherein the SNMP MIB object stores a username or a password for one member of the following group consisting of: a telnet protocol, a SSH protocol, a TFTP protocol, a RCP protocol, a SNMP protocol, a TACACS protocol, and a RADIUS protocol.

Kwan teaches the method of Claim 16, wherein the SNMP MIB object stores a username or a password for one member of the following group consisting of: a telnet protocol, a SSH protocol, a TFTP protocol, a RCP protocol, a SNMP protocol, a TACACS protocol, and a RADIUS protocol (pages 16,23,27,28,31,34,36,37,41,44,45,50,53).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the system of Grover with the teaching of Kwan because the teaching of Kwan would improve the system of Grover by providing basic access security so as to protect devices against unauthorized access and usage (Kwan page 14).

23.   As to claims 42,64 and 86, see the rejection of claim 20 above.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 16-22,38-44,60-66 and 82-88 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.
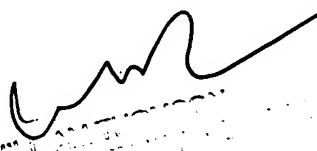
Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Charles E. Anya whose telephone number is (571) 272-3757. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F (8:30-5:00).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, William Thomson can be reached on (571) 272-3718. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Charles E Anya
Examiner
Art Unit 2194

cea.